

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0038] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0038]** In the event more than one distinct coverage region is employed, the NOC 26 coordinates a handoff of the forward and return communications links with the aircraft while the aircraft is traveling through a designated overlap between the two regions. This process is described in detail in copending U.S. application serial [[\_\_\_\_\_]], 09/851,369 (Attorney docket no. 7784-000185) filed concurrently herewith.